

Message Text

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SUBJECT: POLITICAL PARTIES ENERGY VIEWS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN
IN FRANCE HAS NOT HAD A GREAT DEAL OF DEBATE ON
ENERGY, WE THINK IT USEFUL TO PRESENT TWO OPPOSITION
AND TWO MAJORITY PARTY OPINIONS ON THIS QUESTION.

COMMUNISTS, RASSEMBLEMENT POUR LA REPUBLIQUE (RPR) AND
REPUBLICANS FAVOR ALL MEANS INCLUDING A LARGE NUCLEAR
EFFORT, OF REDUCING FOREIGN PETROLEUM DEPENDENCY.
SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) FAVORS NUCLEAR ENERGY, BUT WITH
RESERVATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY'S SECRETARY GENERAL
STATED LAST JUNE THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO DEVELOP
ALL KINDS OF ENERGY, INCLUDING NUCLEAR. CONCERNING
THE LATTER, HE ADDED: "RECOURSE TO NUCLEAR IS A
NECESSITY. IT WOULD BE DEMAGOGY TO PRETEND OTHERWISE."

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3. THE SOCIALIST PARTY HAS BEEN A LITTLE MORE GUARDED.
ITS LEADER, FRANCOIS MITTERRAND, STATED IN JULY,
"IF THE SOCIALISTS ACCEPT THE PRINCIPALE OF NUCLEAR
ENERGY, SINCE NOTHING BETTER IS IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE,
THEY REJECT THE 'ALL-NUCLEAR' POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT."
THAT PARTY FAVORS SUSPENSION OF ALL FURTHER ORDERS OF

REACTORS FOR 18 MONTHS TO TWO YEARS, SO THAT THE NATIONAL DEBATE ON THE SUBJECT CAN PROCEED UNIMPEDED.

AT THE END OF THIS PERIOD, A NEW POLICY WOULD BE DRAFTED, BASED ON DIVERSIFICATION OF SOURCES AND SUPPLIES OF ENERGY.

4. THE GAULLIST RASSEMBLEMENT POUR LA REPUBLIQUE, THE LARGEST COMPONENT OF THE RULING COALITION, PROPOSES THREE LINES OF ACTION:

A. IMPROVE THE PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION OF ENERGY IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE;

B. IN THE MEDIUM TERM, IMPROVE PRODUCTION OF FRANCE'S OWN RESOURCES. ITS LEADER, JACQUES CHIRAC, STATED IN NOVEMBER, 1977: "WE HAVE TO TURN TO NUCLEAR ENERGY TO COVER THE INEVITABLE INCREASE IN OUR NEEDS. THE WORST ILLUSION WOULD BE TO BELIEVE THAT FRANCE COULD REJECT ATOMIC ENERGY. THE TWO YEAR MORATORIUM FRANCOIS MITTERRAND PROPOSED WOULD NOT SOLVE ANY PROBLEMS."

C. IN THE LONG TERM, THE RPR'S POLICY IS TO EXPLOIT NEW SOURCES OF ENERGY.

5. THE REPUBLICAN PARTY'S ENERGY POLICY HAS THREE COMPONENTS:
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A. DRAFTING AN OVERALL ENERGY POLICY, IN WHICH NUCLEAR ENERGY WOULD BE AN ELEMENT, IN CONNECTION WITH AN ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM AND ANOTHER TO MAXIMIZE FRANCE'S DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCTION.

B. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A EUROPE-WIDE POLICY.

C. THE ORGANIZATION OF A GREAT DEBATE ON THE PROBLEM.
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